

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 2019

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven and Ranking Member Merkley:

As the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural, Development, FDA, and Related Agencies develops the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 funding bill, we urge the subcommittee to fully fund programs supporting 1890 land-grant institutions at 2018 Farm Bill levels.

For more than a century, 1890s have educated hundreds of thousands of African-American students, scholars, teachers, and have served as a gateway to success when so many doors of opportunities were closed. The legacy of these universities is also about the innovative research, extensive public outreach, and economic development initiatives going on today. According to a study performed by the United Negro College Fund, 1890s contribute more than \$4.4 billion to their local economies and prepare thousands of students for successful careers.

The bipartisan 2018 Farm Bill provided new investment opportunities for 1890s and the FY 19 funding bill increased funding for new and existing programs, as well. Now is the time to build on this momentum and provide the stable funding that these universities require to remain on the cutting edge of agricultural and scientific research.

We ask that the Subcommittee fund the newly authorized **1890s Centers of Excellence** at the full amount of \$10,000,000. The 1890s Centers of Excellence (COE) will promote groundbreaking research and spur economic growth.

The COE's were included in the Farm Bill and will address challenges like agricultural workforce development, nutrition and food security, economic development and emerging technologies, and will encourage the diversification of our agricultural workforce. Each 1890 COE will focus on increasing access and economic returns for farmers and rural communities, contributing to poverty reduction, and reducing health disparities and economic vulnerability of local and rural communities.

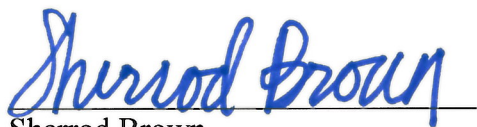
The Farm Bill also established **scholarships for students at 1890 Institutions**. We request **funding of this new program at the fully authorized amount of \$10,000,000**. This funding will ensure more young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds can attend 1890 land-Grant Institutions to pursue careers in agriculture and agribusiness. As the subcommittee knows, the average age of American farmers continues to increase and younger farmers often struggle to

gain a foothold in this capital-intensive business. Yet, as 70% of farmland is projected to switch ownership in the coming years, it is clear the Congress should be steps to ensure the next generation of farmers are ready when the opportunity presents itself.

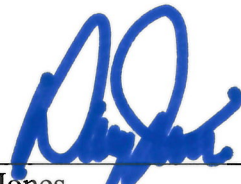
Finally, research and extension at 1890s address many urgent and critical local, regional, national, and global problems, especially as these issues affect low-income and underserved communities. That is why it is imperative that we increase funding for programs that support these schools, their students, and their continued groundbreaking research. We ask that you appropriate \$67,000,000 for the **Evans-Allen Program**, \$57,000,000 for **1890s Extension Program**, \$23,009,800 for **1890s Capacity Building Grants**, and \$23,529,900 for **1890s Facilities Grants Program** in the upcoming fiscal year.

Again, we strongly urge the Subcommittee to fully fund these important 1890 land-grants. We appreciate your consideration of this request and your past support for 1890s. We look forward to working with you to invest in our nation's land-grants and agricultural sector.

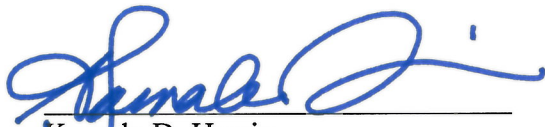
Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



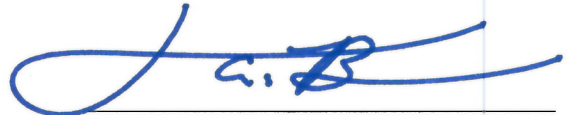
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



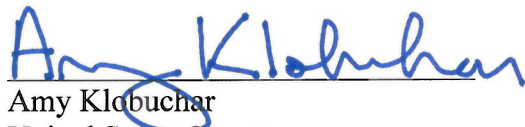
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
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Amy Klobuchar
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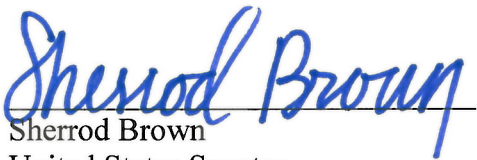
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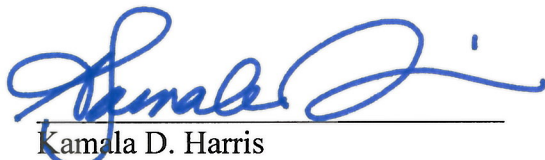
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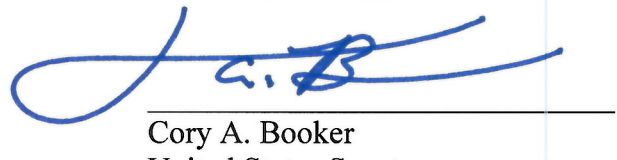

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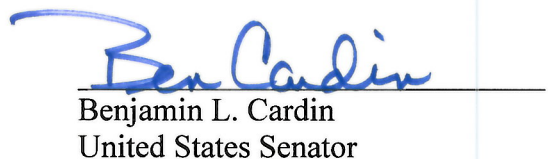

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